



380 S. Rosemead Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91107

Worship Time  
Sundays  
945 AM  
Heart  
Preparation

1000 AM  
WORSHIP

## Following God

“You have spoken arrogantly against me,” says the LORD. Yet you ask, “What have we said against you? You have said, ‘It is futile to serve God. What do we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty? But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly evildoers prosper, and even when they put God to the test, they get away with it. Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. On the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty, “they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”

Malachi 3:13-18

Our goal of discipleship only finds meaning when we follow Jesus. In Matthew 4:19 Jesus invites us to “*Come follow Me and I will make you fishers of men*”.

**COME**—this is not an invitation to a religion rather this is an invitation to a relationship with Him. A loving relationship so that we can experience salvation from our sins.

**FOLLOW ME**— is a summon, a command to discipleship. A command to be a follower of Jesus.

**I WILL MAKE YOU**—this is a promise of transformation, to be changed from the inside out. It is God’s work to transform us and this is His commitment to those who choose to follow Him.

**FISHERS OF MEN**—so that we can do the same for others. . . As the Lord disciples us, we are told to go and disciple others.

### Dgroup Schedules

Tuesdays  
700 pm  
1102 E Swanee Lane  
West Covina, CA

Thursdays  
730 pm  
2617 N Parish Place  
Burbank, CA

Fridays  
700 pm  
5124 Ashworth St  
Lakewood, CA

For us to understand what it means to follow God, we look at Malachi 3 where we see two groups of people. The first group of people are saying that:

1. following God is useless (v 13-14)

- \* they said that it is useless to serve and follow God

2. following God is unprofitable (v 13-14)

- \* that we will not gain anything by following God, they have only suffered by following God

3. the wicked are blessed and they go unpunished (v 15)

- \* they believe that the wicked are getting away with testing God and doing what they want to do

Surely God is good to Israel,  
To those who are pure in heart!  
2 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling,  
My step had almost slipped.  
3 For I was envious of the arrogant  
As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.  
4 For there are no pains in their death,  
And their body is fat.  
5 They are not in trouble as other men,  
Nor are they plagued like mankind.  
6 Therefore pride is their necklace;  
The garment of violence covers them

Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure  
And washed my hands in innocence;  
14 For I have been stricken all day long  
And chastened every morning.

Until I came into the sanctuary of God;  
Then I perceived their end.  
18 Surely You set them in slippery places;  
You cast them down to destruction.  
19 How they are destroyed in a moment!  
They are utterly swept away by sudden terrors!  
20 Like a dream when one awakes,  
O Lord, when aroused, You will despise their form

Psalms 73: 1-6; 13-14; 17-20

How can they say this?

1. they have an eye problem

- \* when the psalmist looked at the people around him, he became envious and he began to question. He looked at the prosperity of the wicked and he began to complain.
- \* Often times when we see how other people's lives are and begin to compare it to our own, we begin to think that we do not have enough, we become discontented and envious of whatever prosperity they seem to be enjoying.
- \* This the psalmist says is his daily struggle. As he continues to face difficulties, problems in life, he begins to wonder at the kind of life that the wicked are living and why it seems unfair.
- \* But in verses 17-20, he begins to say that he had been feeling this way "until he came into the sanctuary of God", until he comes into the presence of God and then his perspective changes. He begins to realize that God sees all that the wicked are doing, and that in they will be judged
- \* Whenever we find ourselves in a situation similar to the psalmist, instead of LOOKING AROUND, we should instead LOOK UP and focus on God.

2. they have a heart problem.

- \* envy is a heart problem.

**You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. Matthew 12:34**

- \* when we continue to look around and compare ourselves to others, we become envious of others, we become discontented with what we have and our heart begins to want more. We begin to want more recognition, more financial security, more rewards.
- \* The heart will continue to deceive us making us believe that we need more and this becomes detrimental to our relationship with God because God is telling us that we only need one thing — intimacy with Him.
- \* Psalm 23 reminds us that our thinking should be "Lord you are my Shepherd and I will not want". That nothing should be more important than this in our life — that we need nothing more than a personal and intimate relationship with God.
- \* So instead of looking around us, we should focus our eyes and hearts on God and say "Lord Jesus, I want nobody, nothing else but You."

The second group of people feared the Lord. (v 16) These people honored and revered God. They gathered together and spoke to one another about Him. God gave them attention and heard them. . . And this pleased the Lord.

What do Godly people say about following God?

1. Abraham in Genesis 12:1 when God commanded him to leave his land and go, did not question or doubt instead he simply said *"I will follow God anywhere"*
2. Joshua in Joshua 24:15 made a stand and regardless of what other people would think or say, he simply stated *"As for me and my house, we choose to follow God."*
3. Solomon in Ecclesiastes 12:13 said that at the end of it all *"following God is the purpose of my life"*. That he exists only for Him — to honor and to give glory to Him.
4. Isaiah said in Isaiah 5:5-8, that he felt undeserving but to *"Serve God is a privilege"*
5. Paul in Philippians 1:21 said that *"Following Christ is everything."*

### *What does your heart say about following Jesus?*

Why is it worth following God?

1. He will remember and reward our commitment to Him. (Psalm 73:16; Exodus 23:25; 1 Timothy 4:8)
  - \* the things we have done for God, everything that we have sacrificed for God is written down and one day God will reward us for our commitment
2. Because God will treasure and treat us as His children. (Psalm 73:17)
  - \* the Lord will lay claim on us as His own
3. Because God will divide and distinguish us from those who do not deserve ( Psalm 73:18)

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you have any eye or heart problems that is stopping you from completely following Jesus?
  2. Which among the godly men would you want to emulate? Why?
  3. What do you plan to commit to in order to become a follower of Jesus?
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## WORKS

Today we choose to call ourselves Christians, but are we living up to the name by which we are called? Have we allowed ourselves to be changed by God? Jesus invites us to "Come follow Me and I will make you fishers of men".

During our quiet time, let us examine ourselves by asking these questions?

1. have I truly accepted Jesus' invitation to "Come" or am I still holding back?
2. Have I truly decided to obey the summons to "follow Him" and surrender all aspects my life to Him? Or do I insist to retain control of a portion of my life?
3. Have I truly surrendered so that "He can make me"? Have I allowed Him to change me? To transform me? Or am I still fighting back?
4. Have I taken up the challenge to become a "fisher of men"? What are the hindrances that I am coming across in my desire to share Jesus with others? What is stopping me from becoming a disciple? Why am I not responding to the marching orders to disciple others?

A life fully surrendered to God will want nothing else but Him, will need nothing else but a relationship with Him. And when the time comes, we can be assured that God will remember and will reward us, that He will treasure us and call us His own, and that He will set us apart and distinguish us from the rest. Let us continue to pray together and for each other as we continue to journey through discipleship so that we may become worthy to be called CHRISTians.